

Minutes of the meeting between AfricaRice and Nafaka in the context of Africa Rising Project

Morogoro, 23 March 2015

Objective

The objective of the meeting was to discuss and agree on a common 2015 work plan concerning the collaboration between AfricaRice and Nafaka as the key partners in the rice-based systems team of the Africa RISING project.

Participants

- David Benafel, Deputy Chief of Party/Nafaka
- Silvanus Mruma, Agronomist/Nafaka
- Victor Mgoo, Input Market Development Specialist/ Nafaka
- Lameck Kikoka, RUDI-Association Development expert/ Nafaka
- Jonne Rodenburg, Agronomist /AfricaRice
- Senthilkumar Kalimuthu, Agronomist/ AfricaRice
- Gaudiose Mujawamariya, Value Chain Economist/AfricaRice
- Haroon Sseguya, Scaling Specialist/IITA

Content

The meeting started at 11hrs with a word of welcome by Mruma, who reiterated the expectations for good collaboration between AfricaRice and Nafaka in making the project reach its targets and impact.

David Benafel introduced the work of Nafaka Project in increasing production and marketing of the maize and rice-based systems in the region of Morogoro and Iringa, with plans to expand to Mbeya and Zanzibar.

David Benafel also explained the structure of implementing the Nafaka project. In principle, Nafaka giving training of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) of rice to 30 Village Based Agricultural Agents (VBAA) and each VBAA will further train 25 farmers each. VBAA's will be helped to obtain licenses to sell agro-inputs and act as a facilitator on input supply and marketing or produce. Several initiatives have been undertaken by Nafaka in order to improve the agricultural & marketing systems. For instance, linkages are made with microfinance units in order to provide loans so that farmers can afford storage; grants are made to private investors; Village Based Agricultural Agents are trained to lead the training of other farmers; and behavioural change communications are made through audio and visual programs to make farmer groups aware of production and marketing strategies. Farmer associations are trained in financial literacy and GAP, and also supported to undertake collective marketing by aggregating in warehouses.

On the side of AfricaRice, Jonne Rodenburg explained the structure of the institution and the research activities conducted in Tanzania especially in the rice sector development hubs of Kahama, Kilombero and Mbeya (Kyela). In agronomy, farmers are being trained on Good Agricultural Practices, engaged in

participatory on-farm testing of new technologies such as motorized weeder testing and fabrication of locally made motorized weeders, evaluation of foliar nutrition in rice, evaluating a set to GAP component technologies in 2015.

In the context of Value Chain Development, Gaudiose Mujawamariya explained the market-first approach adopted by AfricaRice. This approach aims to collect the views and preferences of consumers and users of research products and transmit the information to farmers and other value chain actors. Here also, market distortions are addressed either by the market actors or through policy measures in order to improve the performance of the value chain and industry.

After a session of interactions on the activities of both institutions, Nafaka shared the implementation and output of its agronomic activities in the 2 quarters of 2015.

Participants discussed the work plan for 2015 in relation to agronomy and value chain activities.

In the context of agronomy, the following collaborative activities are planned for the year 2015:

1. AfricaRice invites Nafaka representatives to participate in testing and development of motorized weeders, on-farm testing of new technologies such as foliar nutrition and GAP testing in Kilombero.
2. AfricaRice will assist Nafaka on revising their training manual on Good Agricultural Practices for Rice
3. AfricaRice will share the training curriculum on Integrated Rice Management (PLAR-IRM) with Nafaka
4. AfricaRice will conduct a training session for Nafaka agronomist on Integrated Rice Management. Nafaka will help AfricaRice to develop materials for technology dissemination such as pamphlets and folders on GAP component technologies
6. Both AfricaRice and Nafaka will share the already developed technology dissemination materials such as video and audio messages, folders and pamphlets
7. AfricaRice will assist Nafaka on developing protocols, establish demo plots and implementing activities related to water management in rice & purification of existing rice land races.

In the context of value chain, the following activities were discussed. Clarifications of the purpose of experimental auctions and how they are conducted were made. These auctions are a tool to obtain information on the consumer preferences and their willingness to pay for rice quality attributes. Apart from the baseline survey that is being coordinated by AfricaRice but implemented by ARI Ilonga with the purpose to generate baseline data from all categories of actors in the value chain, the planning of activities which will directly involve Nafaka were agreed upon as follows: (2) Experimental auctions in Morogoro to assess consumers rice attributes valuation and preferences for rice varieties-this activity will be conducted in April; ideally it will be preceded by a training of the Nafaka staff/partners who are involved in marketing activities so that they can actively participate in subsequent experimental auctions and gain the skill to apply the tool on their own; (3) Training of and other value-chain actors in the hubs on rice quality issues-this activity will be done in June; (4) Establish multistakeholder platforms (also known as Innovation Platforms) and conduct a meeting of stakeholders in the rice value chain in the hub-this activity will be done in August.

The meeting ended at 03:30 PM.